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JOURNAL OF THE CAMPAIGN TO THE  
SOUTHWARD.

May 9th to July 14th, 1778.

By  
John Faucheraud Grimké.

*(Continued from the July number.)*

July.

1: At two O'clock in the Morning the General rec<sup>d</sup>. an express from the Governor informing him that a body of Militia Horse under the Command of General Scriven<sup>1</sup> amounting to One Hund<sup>d</sup>. & odd, had been detached by him to Reconnoitre the Enemy & that he had rec<sup>d</sup>. a Courier from the Brigadier acquainting him that he had fallen in with the Enemy about 26 Miles from his Camp whom he attacked but was obliged to Retreat with the loss of One killed, four wounded, & one Negro missing, with about 5 or 6 Horses killed bringing off one Lieut a Prisoner: the Enemy's loss not known.—He presses the General to march early tomorrow Morning to attac them with as many of his Troops as he can possibly spare & promises that he will march & Cooperate in the attempt. by the acc<sup>t</sup>: it appeared to the General that Brig: Gen: Scriven had been drawn into a well concerted Ambuscade by Major Prevost: & he declared it as his Opinion that the Enemy had an intention of opposing us there, as they raised a breast-work, which they defended with much valour, tho' with little Judgment, in killing and wounding so few of Our Men, who were within 30 or 40 yards of the breast work. He readily acquiesced in the proposal of the Governors (altho' he had not been previously acquainted with the Manovre of the Mili-

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<sup>1</sup>Gen. James Scriven of the Georgia Militia, he had been Col. of the 3<sup>d</sup> Battalion of Georgia Continentals, and resigned 21 March, 1778; he received his death wound at Midway, Ga., Nov. 24, 1778.

tia, & from which, fatal consequences might have ensued, had we Detached any troops also) & Promised to be ready to march upon the Return of the Express, if the Governor could supply our Army with Rice as the Galley not Coming up had disappointed Us, & we had not sufficient for the days supply.

Measures were taken accordingly by the Continental Troops who held them selves in Readiness to March at a minutes warning.

Col<sup>o</sup>: Jack arrived at 7 o'Clock in the Evening with a letter from the Governor informing Us that He had no Provisions in his Camp for to-morrows Subsistence & that of Consequence the proposed Expedition must fall to the ground. Had the General advanced, as the Governor in his Letter to him assures him He hopes will & that he Relies upon his Moving the [illegible] of the Continental Troops had most probably been cut off by this disappointment & want of the Supplies Pledged.—

The want of Provisions in the Governors Camp appears to Us very Extraordinary, as the General left him Rice at S<sup>t</sup> Illas which tho a small quantity would have been of great service to Us & which would have prevented Our Camp from Wanting had it not been relinquished to him: but what Surprises Us most is a declaration of Gov: Houstons in a letter to the General of the 27 Ult<sup>o</sup>: that the Small quantity of Rice left at S<sup>t</sup> Illas for his Militia was no disappointment as He was well Supplied with Provisions— notwithstanding this assertion, we find him in want 5 days afterwards.

Accounts are rec<sup>d</sup>. that 14 or 15 Scophilites are arrived in the Governors Camp who Report that they Deserted from the Enemy as soon as the firing began between Gen: Scriven & Major Prevost & that had we not attacked them that Day Two Hund<sup>d</sup>. had combined to Come over in the Night: Col<sup>o</sup>: Brown, they Say, was just Coming into their Camp upon his Retreat from Fort Tonym & that they had not been acquainted with the advance of the Continental Troops to this Post, for which Reason they went to the Governor's Camp.—That 200 Regulars were posted in the breast-work

whence they annoyed the Militia & that the best of the Scophilites to the amount of 300 men drawn up behind the [illegible]: that Col<sup>o</sup>: Browns<sup>1</sup> Men had escaped in that Swamp & that they were marching to surround Gen: Scriven when he very fortunately & Preciptateley Retreated leaving all his Baggage behind him: That the Person fired upon on the 29<sup>th</sup>. was McGirt who was slightly wounded in the Shoulder; & that the Person pursued on the 28<sup>th</sup> was Col<sup>o</sup>: Brown himself, who was reconnoitring Our Camp with a design of attacking Us; & that He & Col<sup>o</sup>: McMurphy had actually marched on the 29<sup>th</sup>: when McGirt was wounded (who was then acting as a Scout to the Enemy) to fulfil the above Intention, but learning from McGirt that we had advanced within two Miles of Fort Tonyn with all Our force, they immediately Retreated to the breast work where General Scriven was surprised. by this retreat it was conjectured that the Enemy did not mean to attac our whole force, but had Hopes of Surprising Us whilst part of the Army was on the other side of the River, having reason to Express a Compleater Victory could they attac Us in Our Divided States. These Prisoners also inform that They were fed on Salt-Pork & Rice & had been promised one Shilling Ster: per Dieum, but that they had not as yet been paid: — that the Enemy had no Works at Trout Creek, only a small breast-work at the embarking place on S<sup>t</sup> Johns this side of the River & that they had a pretty Strong Work at Hesters[?] Point, & they make no doubt the Enemy will retire immediately upon our approach, as it was currently Reported they were to Retreat before the Above action happened.

Capt<sup>a</sup>. Saunders<sup>2</sup> at past eleven oClock in the Night arrived in Camp with the Baggage etc which we had left behind & Reported that he had been detained by the Militia who crossed over their Artillery, carried them back again & recrossed them a Second time before he could Obtain the Use of the Raft, tho' framed by Continental Troops.—He also Says, that he marched into Camp without being chal-

<sup>1</sup>Col. Thomas Brown of the Florida Scout or Queen's Rangers.

<sup>2</sup>Capt. Roger Saunders of the First Regiment. Commission dated 4 Nov., 1775. Resigned Oct. 6, 1778.

lenged by any Centry or Stopped by any Guards.—Capt. Saunders acquaints the General that Major Romand was obliged to pay £60 Sterl<sup>r</sup>. for a Continental waggon which had been sunk in the River & which the Militia having taken out refused to Deliver up, claiming it as plunder, & that according to the Arbitration of Several Field officers of the Militia, he was obliged to pay the above sum to regain the waggon.

2: The Galley arrived this Morning with two flats, laden with Rice, Salt, etc. to the great satisfaction of the Army, who have not tasted Bread these three days, but which however they have bore with a Many Patience & without Complaint.

The Governor visited our Camp to Day, & after a short Conference with the General, wherein he Promised to Cross over the River & encamp in our Neighbourhood the next Day, He Returned to his Camp the same Evening.

The Carolina Galley in Saluting, shot one Privates arm off by a Wad, which it is supposed glanced from the water, as the bluff is near 30 feet high.

6: The Militia have at length crossed the River & are encamped within half a mile of Us: this we expected them to have done ever since the 28 June, when the Governor promised to March against Major Prevost & that they would not have left Us liable to the United Attacks of Major Prevost & Col<sup>o</sup>: Brown, whose force was equal, if not superior, to that of the Continental Troops alone, already reduced by Deseased & which were daily increasing.

The Continental Troops do not amount to 400 effectives: Our Situation wears the appearance of much distress & Prudence dictate that we should Consider our Retreat whilst practicable particularly as the Designs of the general have been Completed & that We have strong assurances of the Enemy do not mean to Engage with Us on this side of S<sup>t</sup>. Johns River.

The Engineer has been employed to throw up Fleches in the Front of Our Rampart & to repair the foot.

Our Scouting Parties every night do not fail of bringing us some intelligence of the Enemys advanced Parties being

about our Camps, Stealing Cattle & Horses. Our Centinils fire upon them almost every night, alarm the Camp & harass the Troops.

A farther Progress of the Troops seems equally unnecessary and impolitic: the difficulties of Marching thro' an uninhabited Savage Country increase upon us every Moment—the Danger of Carrying the galleys without cutting a passage for them, & the delay which would be Occasioned by making such a channel, the advanced Season of the year and the increasing disorders of the Army, the few Men who are now fit & effective for Duty scarce amounting to one third of the Army, which we set out with, the Superiority of the Enemies Force in S<sup>t</sup> Johns River even could the Galleys get there & the bad Provisions made for a farther Progress to the Southward than S<sup>t</sup> Marys & a longer Campaign than the Present Month which was hardly expected to Continue so long, the Improbability of the Enemies engaging Us on this side of S<sup>t</sup>. Johns River where it is so much their Interest & advantage to Attac us in passing the River, where their Retreat will be Secure, the Impossibility of making any attac upon S<sup>t</sup> Augustine & that should it be attempted & We fail in success all the Continental Soldiers will most probably be sick by the Inclemency of the Season & the Fatigue they Undergo, by which Georgia would be left defenceless & more subject to the Ravages of the Enemy if not to an invasion of all the Troops of Florida, the want of Horses to draw our artillery & waggons, above forty have been reported deficient, added to this the Improbability of Col<sup>o</sup>. Williamsons arrival, by Militia Report we have had Reason to Expect for these three Weeks, & from whom we have never heard a word, neither do we know his Strength in Men or his quantity of Provisions: also that Governor Houston instead of bringing 1,300 Men into the field which he pledged himself to Carolina for, cannot at present Parade 400 & has Expectations of Only 200 More, under Col<sup>o</sup>: Walton (nor yet arrived tho' expected daily;) & likewise that the Militia having imbibed a notion, that they were not to be commanded by Continental officers, had raised such a mutual distrust & want of Confidence in

each other, by which no Orders issued could be expected to be Obeyed, & from which nothing but disappointment could arise & a Consequent Digrace & that altho' Congress had in a very particular Manner given their Determination upon this Subject, yet had it been misconstrued & avoided by such misinterpretation, to the Injury of Continental officers, who had sacrificed their Time & Fortunes to the Duties of a Continental Commission, yet had the Militia refused to act in concert with & under Continental Troops Besides these many Difficulties & the very strong Reasons already urged for not proceeding, Capt. Moore who this day Returned from a Reconnoitring Party with the Command of Only five Men, Reports to the General that the Enemy have Retreated from their Breast-work at Alligator branch (where they engaged General Scriven) to Trout Creek, & that upon their Retreating they had taken up all the Planks from the Bridges & burnt them, had felled trees in the Roads & Swamps to prevent our approach, & that the Yauls & Swamp were covered with such a depth of Water, as to swim his Horses two or three times in almost every low ground he passed thro'; That the Country was chiefly low Pine-land, very rotten & decayed, & Hazardous for wag-gons to pass thro' & in his opinion we should encounter difficulties not easily surmounted & that finally our March to S' Johns River by the Road was impracticable with the few Pioneers we had with Us. He also informs the General that He proceeded as near as 80 yards to the Enemy's Camp, that he called to & fired upon them, which they did not return. that some of them upon seeing him mounted their Horses & that others who were posted in an House, threw open the Windows, as if to stand on their Defence & engage Us from that Post, as He Imagines they expected the whole army to be at his back. Cap<sup>t</sup>. Moore says that He Conceives this Post as only a Rear Guard to Cover their Retreat, for by the small number of men He saw there they could not Meditate a formidable opposition & Believes they will not engage Us on this Side of S'. Johns River. He Returned without Molestation. These are the Sentiments of all the Continental officers.

8: Col<sup>o</sup>: Williamson arrived in the Governors Camp this Morning which was announced to his Camp by the discharge of Seven Pieces of Artillery: it was mistaken in our encampment for an alarm, No information having been sent to Us that such a Salute was intended. We were however agreeably disappointed. ——— Col<sup>o</sup>: W<sup>m</sup>. sons Men are crossing S<sup>t</sup>. Illas. ———

A message having been rec<sup>d</sup>. by the General inviting him to a Conference with Governor Houston & Col<sup>o</sup>: Williamson, the General, having previously consulted his principle Field Officers, Resolved that He would not sacrifice Service to Etiquette, but Condesend to accept their invitation: the General was sensible no good could arise from such a Consultation, as the Governor strenuously asserted his Right to Command, Col<sup>o</sup>: W<sup>m</sup> son also Claiming an independant & separate authority, & the General having been in a peculiar Manner instructed by Congress not only to Direct the operations of all troops but making him accountable for the Consequences, altho' no prospect of success, either that a Coalition of Parties would take place so as to vest the command Ultimately in One Person, or even should this point happily got over, that the Sentiments of the Chiefs would Unite in pursuing one object, Governor Houston preferring to cross S<sup>t</sup> Johns River, Col<sup>o</sup>: Williamson advising to march as far as S<sup>t</sup>. Johns & the General & his officers being of the opinion that we should retreat from this post, well convinced that the Enemy intend no opposition to Us on this side of S<sup>t</sup>. Johns & being equally well assured that it is impossible for us to cross S<sup>t</sup>. Johns River with safety to the Troops unless the Commodore can take possession of that River & maintain it. the Commodore however when called upon declared it as his opinion that the Galleys should not by any means be trusted out to Sea, the risk they ran in such operations being much too great for the advantages they will gain thereby, as the Galleys were never intended to go to Sea & consequently they could only voyage in smooth water, but at Sea they would easily fall & sacrifice to a ship of much less force & weight of metal than the Galleys; & that this would



be the Event at present can never be doubted, as the best information & latest intelligence acquaint us with a 20 Gun Ship fitted & manned, now laying in the chaps of S<sup>t</sup>. Johns River, for this especial purpose: that the cutting a passage from the fleet thro' Amelia Narrows was the only Rational & possible Method that could be pursued, but that the Pioneers we had were so few in number & the task to be performed so long, & laborious that the Season would be too far advanced before we could effect any Object in View & that should we retreat after having opened this communication without having succeeded in the proposed object and destroying their fleet that it is only shewing them a new & more Expeditious way into the State of Georgia attended with less fatigue, danger & Expense & most probably that these Incursions being in the lower settlements of that State they will be enabled to effect more Material & important Mischief, & derive much greater advantages & carry off prizes of more value than what they gain in the back Country of the different States, but that even supposing the Gallies already passed the Narrows & at liberty to enter into S<sup>t</sup>: Johns River, the strength of the Enemy we are well assured is greater than Ours; that they have a Brig which carries four 42 Pound: and six 4 Pound<sup>r</sup>., besides two flats each mounted with heavy metal & besides this naval power, which alone is superior to our fleet, they have two 42 Pound: & 4 Six Pound<sup>r</sup>: at Hester's Bluff, and within point-blank shot of which the fleet must pass & from whence they probably would be much Annoyed; what success therefore can we promise ourselves in engaging an enemy so superior in force, & at such a distance from any place of Security that the defeat of the fleet must actually include the Conquest of the Troops, who it is certain must surrender Prisoners of war or starve whilst the connection with the fleet is cut off, that should the land forces advance with the fleet to support them by batteries etc & any accident should befall the shipping that their situation would be far more distressing in having a longer retreat to make & in being pursued by an Enemy just at their backs & that should the fleet be defeated and no batteries erected by the land forces

to cover their retreat they must inevitably be sacrificed; on the Contrary should the Galleys be successful the Enemys fleet would retire under Cover of the battery at Hester's bluff & the advantages they would reap would be very insufficient to compleate any important Enterprise unless the men lost in an action which it is natural to suppose would be bloody could be so immediately replaced as to pursue the advantages just gained without giving the Enemy either time to reinforce their troops, repair their losses, or carry off their Vessels without farther injury. That in an Enterprize of this nature it was but reasonable to Suppose that He should be full manned: He declared that He was not half manned at present neither did he know where he could obtain them from: He had hitherto been extremely indebted to the Army for this assistance, but could not reasonably hope for a farther supply as those troops were now diminished to less than half the number they set out with by continual Sickness & that the Disorders were not only encreasing daily, but were more fatal & violent in their nature. These Reasons urged the Commodore to favour the Retreat.

Several Men in the first Batt: of the Sec<sup>d</sup>: Brigade have claimed their respective Discharges.

Ten or Twelve Men have deserted from Us lately, supposed to have gone over to the Enemy as they Chiefly belonged to the fourth Georgia Continental Battalion.

The Private who was wounded by the wad of one of the Carolina Galley Guns died of a Mortification.

10: Col<sup>o</sup>: Williamson is crossing over S<sup>t</sup>. Marys with all his waggons.

Capt<sup>s</sup>. Hyrne & Taylor two officers of Note & abilities returned this day with a Detachment of 10 or 12 Privates, picked Men from Col<sup>o</sup>: W<sup>m</sup>:sons Corps who had been out upon a Scouting Party. They Report that having proceeded 10 or 12 miles they arrived a house destitute of inhabitants & where there was plenty of green corn & good food for their Horses: Capt. Hyrne Says that he would have persuaded them (for they disclaimed all command) not to sleep in a place calculated as a proper stage for the Enemy:

but they Peremptorily refused all Compliance with such salertory advise; they therefore turned their Horses loose contrary to his opinion & retreated into the House to Sleep. In a short time after they had lain down, one of their Centinels who had suffered the Horses to stray beyond him, gave an alarm. Cap<sup>t</sup>: Hyrne undertook again to recommend to them that the first thing they ought to do, Should be to take care of their Horses, but whilst many were disputing the Propriety of this Order, & others were offering their Sentiments the Enemy firing a few scattering Shot in one part of the Field whilst another Party drove off their Horses in an opposite part of the Field. Cap<sup>t</sup>. Hyrne adds that He then advised them to take up their saddles & Return, which after some little bluster they very heartily adopted, some of them he says fled upon the first fire & that they disobeyed him & Col<sup>o</sup>: Taylor in every particular.

He assured the General that the roads are so extremely bad that it is next to impossible to carry Field Pieces that way as the ground is extremely rotten low pine land covered with water.

Col<sup>o</sup>: Williamson has wrote to the General this morning and informed him that he cannot be with him until tomorrow, by which means it is probable that the intended interview between the Governor, Col<sup>o</sup>: Williamson, the Commodore, & the General will be broken up as the Militia under Governor Houston are under Marching Orders for 3 o'clock tomorrow Morning.

The Militia have a droll opinion of the Regular Continental Troops—They declare us to be all Cowards for we get up an hour before day & stand to our arms, that we dare not fight without breast-works (meaning the flêches, which the Engineer has thrown up, for the security and defence of our Camp) that we marched from S<sup>t</sup>. Illas without beating a drum for the Ordinary Duties of the Camp, that we put out our fires & take the bells from our Horses at night & that we do not beat the Tattoo every night & that whenever an alarm happens we turn out without beating to arms.

The Governor has confined in the Mainguard several of-

ficers, one of whom was taken out of our Camp by a Captain & file of Men with fixed Bayonets: this infringement upon the Liberty of Our Camp & Want of discipline was not resented, as it was supposed the Result of ignorance of military affairs.

Col<sup>o</sup>: Walton is arrived in the Governors Camp with 150 rank & file.

The boats are ordered up under Convoy to carry the Troops back to Savannah & Charles Town.

Forty odd Sick were sent away this Evening by Water: after they were embarked, the Governor claimed the boat as being in the State Service, but Col<sup>o</sup>: Taarling the D: Q: M: General having pressed her for the Continental Service she was ordered to proceed: but as there was a doubt respecting the Services she was now engaged in & that the Governor might not suffer for want of a proper boat the General has lent him a boat which will be equally fit to fetch Rough Rice as the one he laid a Claim to.

Several of the Sick have died in Camp within these few days.

11: A Council of War was this Morning held at the Generals Tent of all Field-officers in the Continental Service of which the following is a true copy of the Minutes

At a Council of War held in Camp at Fort Tonym this 11: July 1778.

Present

Major General Howe Pres<sup>t</sup>:

Col <sup>o</sup> : Elbert	Col <sup>o</sup> : Pinckney
Col <sup>o</sup> : White	Col <sup>o</sup> : Eveleigh
Col <sup>o</sup> : Taarling	Col <sup>o</sup> : Stark
Col <sup>o</sup> : Rea	L <sup>t</sup> : Col <sup>o</sup> : Henderson
L <sup>t</sup> : Col <sup>o</sup> : Roberts	L <sup>t</sup> : Col <sup>o</sup> : McIntosh
L <sup>t</sup> : Col <sup>o</sup> : Scott	Major Wise
Major Brown	Major Romand
Major Habersham	Major Lane
Major Pinckney	Major Lowe

His Excellency Major General Howe opened the business upon which the Council was assembled by laying be-

fore them the following information "That the Motions of the Enemy from East Florida, the Posts they occupied & were endeavouring to Occupy, the Stations their Men of War and Armed Vessels took possession of, the Number of the Insurgents in S<sup>o</sup>: Carolina & Georgia rising in Arms & forming a junction with the Enemy, the Information given by Deserters & Creditable Prisoners escaped from Augustine and also of Spies Sent there to make discoveries, upon Oath, all uniting to prove that an immediate invasion was intended against Georgia in all appearances two formidable to be repelled by their force alone induced the calling to the assistance of Georgia a part of the Continental Troops in South Carolina & that that State with a Conduct conformable to its Usual Generosity & Spirit had sent with the utmost readiness even More Men than of Right could be demanded of them: These in concert with the Continentals of Georgia chased the Enemy out of the Country, Obligated them to Evacuate Fort Tonyn from whence they had made inroads continually into Georgia dangerous to the Persons and Property of its inhabitants, by which they have in the Generals Opinion answered every purpose for which they were called, but willing to have with him the opinion of his Field-officers upon every occasion where they ought to be Consulted & ready to relinquish his own should they offer any reasons which can authorize his doing so, He wishes to propose to them several questions, but previously to this He thinks it necessary to give them the following additional informations. That tho' driving the Enemy out of Georgia & dislodging them from Fort Tonyn were the principal ends he aimed at, yet had the Enemy in defence of that post or any other thought proper to oppose him with Regulars & He had been happy enough to have defeated them in detail, He should have been ready to have availed himself of every advantage which might have resulted from it. That by information rec<sup>d</sup>. from Capt<sup>s</sup>: Moore, Hyrne & Taylor the roads naturally bad, have been rendered much worse by the Enemies having broken them up, destroyed the bridges & by other methods, So that neither Artillery, or ammunition Waggon can pass

without great loss of time & labor & that from every appearance they Conceive & from other information the General learns that the Enemy have abandoned all thoughts of opposition on this side of S<sup>t</sup>. John's River: That the D: Q: M: G: has reported that the long March & hard Service had destroyed many Horses & rendered so many others unfit for Use there is a deficiency of at least forty even for the absolute Necessities of Service: That the Physician General & all the Surgeons of the Army Report that at last one half of the number of Men we set out with are already Sick Many of them dangerously So & that by the encreasing inclemency of the Climate the greatest part of the Army now well, will either by Continuing here or advancing be most probably destroyed: That by information from the Commodore the Galleys cannot get into S<sup>t</sup> Johns River without great Time & Labor spent to cut a passage thro' Amelia Narrows & if even that was effected the accounts he had rec<sup>d</sup>. all concurred to make it probable that the Enemy were ready to oppose his operations when in the River with a force superior to his the General therefore thinks proper to propose the following Questions

I. That as driving the Enemy out of Georgia & demolishing Fort- Toyn were the Objects principally aimed at, have not these Purposes been affected?

Resolved Unanimously in the Affirmative.

II. As it appears from information above recited, that the Enemy do not mean to oppose Us in force on this side of S<sup>t</sup>. Johns, is there any other Object important enough in our present Situation to Warrant our proceeding?

Resolved Unanimously in the Negative.

III. Is the Army in a Situation to cross S<sup>t</sup>. Johns, attack the Enemy & Secure a Retreat in case of accident though they should be aided by the Militia embodied under Governor Houston & Col<sup>o</sup>. Williamson.

Resolved unanimously in the Negative.

III. Does not the Sickness which so fatally prevails in the Army, render a Retreat immediately Requisite?

Resolved Unanimously in the Affirmative.

The General then proceeded to inform the Council that the Governor had denied the Generals Right to Command the Militia even if a Junction had been formed between them & the Continental Troops notwithstanding the Resolution of Congress declaring that "as to the propriety of undertaking distant Expeditions and Enterprizes, or other Military Operations, and the mode of Conducting them the General or Commanding officer must finally Judge & Determine at his Peril" the General therefore thinks proper to propose the following Questions

I. Can He with propriety, honor and safety to Himself or consistently with Service Relinquish the Command to the Governor?

Resolved Unanimously in the Negative.

II. Can the Army, whilst the Command is divided, act with Security, Vigor, Decision or benefit to the Common Cause?

Resolved Unanimously in the negative.

Signed by all the officers above named.

Agreeable to a General Order of this date we have seriously considered the State of the Army & find from the most Authentic Accounts that full one half have been sent away Sick:—with regard to their Situation as being removed at a distance from Us it is impossible to Determine with any degree of propriety—The number at present sick in Camp are but inconsiderable Owing to the Many opportunities We have had of sending them down to the Islands. But the Consequences of Our Proceeding to the Southward at this Season of the Year appear to Us in a Most dreadful light—for from the Excessive heat, the want of a Vegetable diet and the Natural Inclemencies of this Climate.

We foresee the approach of Disorders that will most undoubtedly destroy the greatest part of the Army. We therefore after Mature deliberation give it as our Opinion that in Order to preserve the Remains of Our Army that they be as soon as possible removed from this and carried to some place where they can Obtain proper necessaries & attendance.

Given under our hands at Fort Tonym this tenth of July, 1778.

W. Keith Phi: & Surgeon Gen: to the Expedition  
David Brydee [?] Sur: 2<sup>d</sup>: Geo: C: Bat<sup>n</sup>:  
Henry C: Flagg Sur: 1<sup>st</sup>: Car: C: Bat<sup>n</sup>:  
James Orr, Sur: 6<sup>th</sup>: Car: Con: Bat<sup>n</sup>:

Col<sup>o</sup>: Williamson having wrote to the General on the Morning of the Tenth that he could not come over to his Encampment as he was Returning to his Troops & the General conceiving an impropriety in his returning without Conversing with him, particularly as he had promised on the Evening before that He would certainly see the General on the Morning of the Morrow, dispatched Col<sup>o</sup>: Drayton One of his Aides to inform Col<sup>o</sup>: W<sup>m</sup>son that he expected to see him in his Encampment, according to his Promise, before he Returned to his Encampment: Col<sup>o</sup>: Williamson accordingly waited on the General, breakfasted with him & having agreed that if a place for [sic] fixed upon for a Conference between the Governor, the Commodore the General & himself he would attend tomorrow Morning.

In the Evening of the 11<sup>th</sup>: Col<sup>o</sup>: Williamson (who was but just arrived in the Governors Camp) wrote to the General signifying that He was in the Governors Camp, was surprised no place of Interview was yet appointed, & Requested that the General would meet the Governor at his Tent. — The General Replied to Col<sup>o</sup>: Williamson that He never wished to observe Ceremony, was sorry He could not comply with this Request as the Officers He wished to Introduce to a Conference had no Horses & Col<sup>o</sup>: Williamsons encampment was two miles off & that it should not be looked upon as a Precedent if the Conference was



held at his Own Tent.—Col<sup>o</sup>: Williamson replied that he was equally averse to Etiquette & appointed a Meeting at the head of the branch, which divides the Generals Camp from the Governors, where the Governor has promised to Erect a Bower.

12: A Conference was this day held at the Bower between the Two Camps, where after a full discussion of the points in View of the Continental Officers were more confirmed in their prior Opinion, especially from the information of Deserters who Report that the Enemy have retreated to within Six Miles distance of S<sup>t</sup>. Johns River, where they have thrown up entrenchments, which the Deserters having described & figured upon Paper, it was evident from the disposition of their Flêches & Redoubts, that the Enemy intended a Retreat, & that these Work, were thrown up, only as a decoy, to lead no farther into the Country. The General retired to a Small distance from the Bower to Consult his officers whether They had changed their Sentiments from the information of the Deserters They were Unanimous in declaring that they were corroborated in their former Sentiments: Col<sup>o</sup>: Williamson had also left the Bower & was in consultation with his officers in Private, when the Governor quitted his Bower & returned to his Camp leaving the Gen: Col<sup>o</sup>: W<sup>m</sup>son & their officers without either giving or receiving any decisive Answer.—In the Evening Col<sup>o</sup>: Jack waited on the General with a request from the Governor to know his Determination: The General replied that he should be happy to oblige him, but as He had not been pleased to wait in the Bower both to give & receive the Determinations of their respective officers, He therefore expected to receive the Governor's resolution, before He should deliver in his:—This demand of the Governors appeared very extraordinary, as it carried with it the appearance of Superior Command: it was therefore deemed proper to check its Career & convince his Honor that He had no right to such a requisition.

The waggons are crossing the River alarmed at night, by our Centinel of the out Piquet firing at some Horsemen, who were reconnoitring our Camp.

13: No Judgment of the Governor & Council of War having been rec<sup>d</sup> this day, & by all accounts no probability of their coming to any decision, until the Determination of the Continental Officers was known, & the General foreseeing no good to arise in waiting their Decision & being well assured that under the present aspect of things that we should not alter our Sentiments sent one of his Aids to the Governor with the Minutes of the Council of War: No Definite reply recd.

Col<sup>o</sup>: Williamson enclosed some letters to the General which passed between him & the Governor & Requesting One Hundred Artillery Men & Field-Pieces in Proportion.

An alarm at night by some Horsemen firing on a Centinal of Col<sup>o</sup>: Williamsons Camp.

14: A Council was this Morning held, before whom the Governor laid the above dequisation of Col<sup>o</sup>: W<sup>m</sup>sons, when it was Unanimously rejected.

A Deserter was this Morning brought in & immediately ordered for tryal, when some favorable Circumstances appearing the Court only Sentenced him to Receive 500 lashes which was approved & executed accordingly.

The Governor having requested the Use of the flat as soon as the Continental Troops had crossed the River the General promised that He would comply with his request.

Col<sup>o</sup>: W<sup>m</sup>son also sent a party for the flat.

The Com<sup>rs</sup>: of both the Militia Camps seem determined upon a Return as soon as possible.

The General sent to the Governor & offered him his encampment, which as it was fortified was preferable to his own: this the Governor refused, & the Flèches were pulled down & set on fire & the Fort levelled before we quitted the Camp.

The Army marched to Day. 120 Rank & File returned with the waggons to St Illas homewards; the remainder of the Troops under Col<sup>rs</sup>: Elbert & Pinckney Marched to Wrights Landing where they are to Embark.

The Artillery & Baggage are sent round by water, the want of Horses compelling Us to pursue this measure.

The General returned by Land.